

**William D. Curlew
60 Basswood Rd
Windsor CT 06095**

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TO: The Public Safety and Security Committee

RE: Oppose: [H.B. No. 5408](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.

I am writing to Oppose the proposed bill HB 5408, which I understand would require the holder of a permit for the carrying of any pistol or revolver to present such permit upon request of a law enforcement officer **without any requirement for such person *to be under 'suspicion of a crime'***.

Currently, a sworn officer needs reasonable suspicion of a crime being committed in order to request a permit to be produced. Just as an officer cannot just randomly stop a citizen who is driving or walking along and demand to see a driver's license or identification for no reason, a citizen enjoying his legal right to carry should not be subject to random, groundless stops. Changing this law would be tantamount to creating a 'Stop and Show Papers' environment for a select portion of the citizenry. The legality of these type of laws ends up being challenged over and over again in the courts, with the states spending lots of money on defense and not winning very many of them.

Some simple observations:

- 1) Criminals do not carry firearms exposed, and rarely have carry permits.
- 2) Concealed carry firearms are generally difficult to detect via casual observation.
- 3) Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the vast majority of people open carrying are in fact law abiding citizens, and if they weren't open carrying, what else about them, absent RAS, would drive a law enforcement office to specifically ask to see their carry permit?

So just as an exercise in logic, this bill makes no sense as far as an aid to public safety. However, it does give law enforcement officers the ability to legally harass law abiding citizen who are open carrying, again targeting a specific population who are just enjoying their legal rights.

Do not pass this ill-conceived and useless bill.

Respectfully,

William D. Curlew

